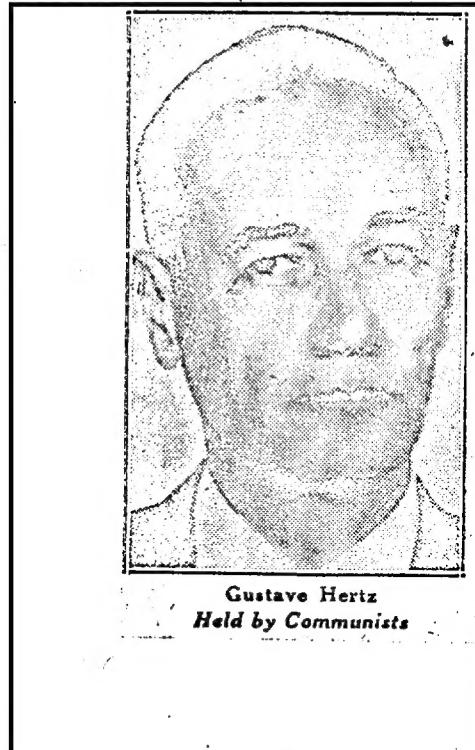


MAR 27 1966

CPYRGHT

U.S. Wants to Swap Official for a Cong

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Saigon, March 28 (Special)

The United States has secretly offered to swap a convicted Viet Cong terrorist for American and has been in the hands of the Reds since February, 1965, it was revealed today.

But, so far, the Communists have cold-shouldered the offer.

Born in Brooklyn

Hertz, 48, born in Brooklyn in Brooklyn, was seized by the Viet Cong while on a motorbike ride near the capital. He was chief public administrations adviser to the U.S. aid mission here.

Through intermediaries, the U.S. offered Red terrorist Nguyen Van Hai, 34, in exchange for Hertz.

Last April, the Communists threatened to kill Hertz if Hai, condemned to death for helping to blow up the U.S. embassy here March 30, was executed. Behind-the-scenes efforts by U.S. officials here managed to stave off the execution.